

Legislative Reference Service

NO. 2

EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS

H-7083 SCHOOL BUSES (Jacquard & Gallison) This act would require that, effective August 1, 2002, all school buses purchased for use in the state be equipped with safety belts for each passenger and operator seat, and further require mandatory safety belt use by the school bus operator and each passenger. H.E.W.

H-7084 COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE (Gallison & Others) This act would provide that any school official who investigates the absence of a student shall be held harmless. H.E.W.

H-7096 SCHOOL-TO-CAREER PROGRAM (Carroll & Others) This act would provide a tax credit of 10% of the expenses to private businesses which participate in a "Qualified School-to-Career Program". Finance

H-7136 SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (Dennigan & Others) This act would require that the Director of the Department of Transportation spend \$6,500,000 of federal highway construction funds on improving pedestrians' routes and roads to our schools. Finance

H-7137 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (Menard & Others) This act would set aside 25% of professional development funds for district-wide professional development activities. H.E.W.

H-7143 CRIMINAL RECORDS REVIEW (McNamara & Others) This act would require applicants for employment with a school to apply either to local police, state police, or BCI of the Attorney General. H.E.W.

S-2276 CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION TRAINING PROGRAM (Polisena & Others) This act would require the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to expand their CPR and AED training program to all public high schools throughout the state. Finance

S-2299 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (Alves & Others) This act would provide that a Certificate of Clinical Competence issued by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association would be considered equivalent to a certificate issued by the National Board for Professional Teachers' Standards. Corporations

S-2300 SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS (Alves & Others) This act would provide that any licensed speech language pathologist who has met the requirements and acquired a Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, and who is employed by a school district, would be entitled to receive an annual salary supplement of \$5,000 in addition to any other compensation to which the employee may be entitled. Corporations

S-2360 CERTIFIED NURSE-TEACHER (Coderre & Others) This act would require schools with over 700 pupils to hire a nurse-teacher's assistant for the certified nurse-teacher. H.E.W.

S-2363 PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGGING OF SCHOOL CHILDREN (Graziano & Others) This act would prevent any school official from requiring that a child be placed on a psychotropic drug as a condition to remaining in school. It would provide penalties for violators. H.E.W.

S-2389 STUDENT EQUITY INVESTMENT FUND (Paiva-Weed & Others) This act would allocate moneys from the Student Equity Investment Fund based on each district's proportion of resident children eligible for USDA reimbursable school meals relative to the total number of eligible students statewide. Finance

S-2391 PENALTIES FOR DRUG, ALCOHOL OR WEAPONS OFFENSES (Izzo & Others) This act would provide that public schools would impose penalties on students for possession of alcohol, drugs, or weapons, pursuant to rules and regulations promulgated by the applicable school committee. Judiciary

S-2465 PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS AT SCHOOL (Perry & Others) This act would establish the conditions under which pesticide applications would occur at schools and child care centers, and would provide for prior notice of pesticide applications to parents and guardians of children and to school staff. H.E.W.

S-2468 CRIMINAL RECORDS REVIEW (Kells & Others) This act would permit an applicant for employment with a private school or public school departments to apply for a national and state criminal records check with the state police or their local police department. H.E.W.

ELECTIONS

H-7117 INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM (Picard) This act would provide a detailed process by which a proponent of a voter initiative and referendum proposal would present the proposal to the Secretary of State, the General Assembly, and the Governor. Judiciary

S-2420 STATEWIDE CENTRAL VOTER REGISTER (Hunter & Others) This act would provide that the Secretary of State would procure a statewide central voter register, and provide all the necessary equipment and training to the local boards of canvassers in the operation of the register. Judiciary

S-2423 POLITICAL PARTIES (Garabedian) This act would provide that any political organization that obtains the requisite 5% of the vote would qualify as a political party for the next 4 years. Judiciary

S-2427 LOCAL CANVASSING AUTHORITIES (Garabedian) This act would change all references to "bipartisan" election activity to reflect the current multi-party status in Rhode Island, and would add the "Cool Moose" Party to the protected names section. This act would also change the size and composition of local canvassing authorities. Judiciary

S-2429 MAIL BALLOTS (Garabedian) This act would provide an elector the choice of voting in person or by mail ballot. Judiciary

S-2479 VOTER REGISTRATION (Hunter & Others) This act would amend the close of voter registration from 30 days to 14 days before an election, and would amend the canvass and correction of voting lists dates from not later than 20 days before a primary or election to not later than 7 days. Judiciary

ENVIRONMENT

H-7099 RESOURCE RECOVERY (Cerra & Others) This act would require that the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation acquire certain property in the Town of Johnston surrounding the Central Landfill, and reimburse the town for lost real estate tax revenue. Finance

S-2319 COASTAL AND ESTUARY HABITAT RESTORATION (Paiva-Weed & Others) This act would establish an interagency coastal and estuarine habitat restoration program, and would establish a trust fund that will receive a percentage of the oil spill prevention fees and other grants, gifts or donations. Judiciary

S-2425 CENTRAL LANDFILL REGION OVERSIGHT COUNCIL (Garabedian & Polisena) This act would create a 19-member central landfill regional oversight council, which will work to address and correct existing landfill and recycling problems. Corporations

FINANCE AND TAXATION

H-7000 POWER TO BORROW MONEY (Williamson & W.J. Murphy) This act would permit municipalities to borrow money from recognized financial institutions in order to acquire certain types of properties. Corporations

H-7029 TOBACCO SETTLEMENT (Williamson) This act would require all funds received by the state from the tobacco settlement to be distributed equally to the cities and towns. Finance

H-7032 SPECIAL EDUCATION FUND (Williamson & W.J. Murphy) This act would provide increased funding for special education for fiscal year 2002-2003. This act would also establish a legislative commission to evaluate the scope and costs of services to special education students in Rhode Island. Finance

H-7040 SCHOOL HOUSING AID (Menard & Others) This act would double the school housing aid for any municipality that houses a school owned by an educational collaborative. Finance

H-7062 REGIONALIZATION BONUS (Gorham & Scott) This act would re-establish Section 16-7-20.05 of the General Laws as the method by which regionalization bonuses would be computed. Finance

H-7065 SCHOOL AID (Gorham & Others) This act would provide for an annual minimum 5% increase in state aid to education. Finance

H-7067 PENSION FUND REFINANCING BONDS (Moura & Others) This act would allow municipalities to issue pension fund refinancing bonds to fund unfunded pension liability. Corporations

H-7106 FARMLAND, FOREST AND OPEN SPACE (Henseler) This act would allow any city/town, by ordinance, to exempt any farmland, forest land or open space land from property tax. Corporations

S-2262 VETERANS' BENEFITS (Issa & Others) This act would move back the date that defines Vietnam service from December 22, 1961, to February 28, 1961. Veterans' Affairs

S-2279 REAL ESTATE CONVEYANCE TAX (Perry & Others) This act would provide that the Rhode Island Housing and Conservation Trust Fund be capitalized with a combination of public and private dollars, and that the state contributions shall include a specified portion of the Real Estate Conveyance Tax. Finance

S-2314 STATE PROPERTY TAXED TO LESSEE OR TENANT (McCaffrey & Others) This act provides that improvements made by a tenant or subtenant of state property, which is necessary to the operation of an airport, shall be taxable. Finance

S-2315 TAX SALES (McCaffrey & Others) This act would change the proper address where tax sale notices will be sent to delinquent taxpayers, so as to facilitate the sending and receipt of notice. Judiciary

S-2320 HOTEL TAX (Walaska & Others) This act would give 21% of the hotel tax to the Rhode Island Division of Tourism for use exclusively to provide statewide tourism. Finance

S-2341 PAYMENT IN LIEU (Gallo) This act would increase the formula for reimbursement of tax payments to communities in which a state correctional facility is located. Finance

S-2352 REGISTRATION OF VEHICLES (Ruggerio & Others) This act would provide for the administrator of the Division of Motor Vehicles to suspend or revoke an individual's motor vehicle registration for failure to pay excise tax to a municipality. Corporations

S-2413 MAXIMUM LEVY (Walsh & Others) This act would require approval by the governing body of each city/town participating in a regional school district of a contribution to the school district budget which would cause the tax levy of that city/town to exceed the tax levy 5.5% cap. Finance

S-2422 SCHOOL AID (Felag & Others) This act would increase the amount of school aid received by 4 ½% per year. Finance

S-2447 PAYMENT IN LIEU (Gallo) This act would increase the formula for reimbursement of tax payments to municipalities in which a state correctional facility is located from 27% to 35%. Finance

LABOR RELATIONS

S-2415 LABOR DISPUTES (Paiva-Weed & Cicilline) This act would require parties meet and negotiate as a condition for the issuance of a temporary or permanent injunction in any public sector labor dispute. Labor

LIQUOR CONTROL AND LICENSES

S-2257 CLASS A LICENSE (McBurney) This act would allow the sale of pre-packaged candy, peanuts, pretzels, popcorn, potato chips or nachos or similar items by Class A licensed retailers at liquor stores. Special Legislation

S-2298 REGULATION OF ACCUPRESSURE (Graziano & Others) This act would authorize cities or towns to license and regulate the practices of massage and accupressure. Corporations

S-2448 ADJOINING PROPERTY OWNERS (Walsh & Sosnowski) This act would amend the provisions of the Rhode Island General Laws pertaining to objections by adjoining property owners to the location of retailers' Class B, C and I licenses. Special Legislation

PLANNING AND ZONING

H-7006 DIMENSIONAL VARIANCES (Lewiss & Others) This act would give a zoning board of review the authority to grant a dimensional variance where a use is permitted in the special-use section of the zoning ordinance. Corporations

H-7063 MARINE TERMINALS (SanBento & Others) This act would require that any agency that seeks to acquire a petroleum marine terminal for a public use provide an alternative marine terminal site of equal acreage, berth draft, and channel draft. Environment & Energy

H-7080 PARKING AREAS (Rabideau & Others) This act would amend the definition of the term "parking areas" within the definitions section of the zoning ordinances chapter. Corporations

S-2283 LAND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (Blais) This act would amend the Rhode Island Zoning Enabling Act relative to cluster developments. Corporations

S-2342 DIMENSIONAL VARIANCES (Bates) This act would allow all municipalities to grant dimensional zoning variances in conjunction with special-use permits. Corporations

S-2343 ZONING DECISIONS (Algiere) This act would eliminate the mailing of a copy of zoning decisions to the Statewide Planning Program office. Corporations

S-2461 LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSING (Revens & Others) This act would provide that a private developer be allowed to submit to a zoning board a single application for a special exception only for low and moderate income housing proposals and not rental proposals. Corporations

S-2476 PARKING AREAS (Gibbs & Others) This act would amend the definition of the term “parking areas” within the definitions section of the zoning ordinance chapter. Corporations

PUBLIC SAFETY – POLICE AND FIRE

H-7001 PAYMENTS TO FIRE COMPANIES (Kennedy & Others) This act would provide reimbursement from the state for volunteer fire companies that respond to emergencies which occur on a limited access highway. Corporations

H-7004 EMERGENCY VEHICLES (Barr & Others) This act would designate a “canteen truck” as an authorized emergency vehicle. Corporations

H-7009 FIREFIGHTERS’ AND POLICE OFFICERS’ DEATH BENEFIT (Lanzi & Others) This act would provide for a payment of a one-time \$100,000 benefit to the family of a firefighter, police officer, correctional officer, and certain other persons who are killed or die from injuries sustained in the line of duty. Corporations

H-7019 SEXUAL ASSAULT (Flaherty & Others) This act would require law enforcement officers to complete a sexual assault report based on probable cause or based on a referral to the Attorney General’s Office. Judiciary

H-7024 CHILD CUSTODY (Williamson & W.J. Murphy) This act would repeal the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act, and replace the Act with the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act. Judiciary

H-7070 HUNTING SAFETY (Moran & Others) This act would exempt full-time law enforcement officers from obtaining a Certificate of Competency for an initial hunting license. Environment & Energy

H-7082 WEAPONS (Jacquard & Corvese) This act would establish a procedure for the forfeiture and destruction of unlawful firearms seized by police departments in the state. Judiciary

H-7111 BALLISTIC IDENTIFICATION DATABANK (Menard & Others) This act would create a Ballistic Identification Databank to be administered by the Rhode Island State Police in conjunction with the Rhode Island State Crime Lab. Judiciary

H-7116 ELECTRONIC RECORDING OF STATEMENTS (Anguilla & Others) This act would require custodial interrogations by police to be recorded and provided to the person who has been recorded. Judiciary

H-7142 FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS FOR CIGARETTES (Menard & Others) This act would establish fire safety standards for cigarettes. H.E.W.

S-2264 FIRE SAFETY CODE BOARD (Hunter – By Request) This act would provide for compensation for the members of the Fire Safety Code Board. Finance

S-2271 WEAPONS (Polisena & Others) This act would provide that a person possessing a license or permit for a concealed pistol or revolver issued by another state, which grants Rhode Island residents reciprocity with respect to concealed pistol permits, would be considered to have a valid concealed pistol permit in Rhode Island. Judiciary

S-2277 DEFIBRILLATORS (Polisena & Others) This act would mandate that the Department of Health establish and maintain a registry of automated external defibrillators (AED's) within the state. The Department of Health would also purchase and distribute automated external defibrillators (AED's) to all public schools to aid in access to training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and automated external defibrillator (AED) use. Finance

S-2376 UNIFORM EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM DIVISION (Algiere & Parella) This act would clarify different references to the E-911 uniform emergency telephone system, and would also clarify the inclusion of municipalities within the group of cooperating public agencies. Corporations

S-2417 FIREFIGHTERS AND POLICE OFFICERS – DEATH BENEFIT (Damiani & Others) This act would provide for a payment of a one-time \$250,000 benefit to the family of an active or retired firefighter, police officer, correctional officer, and certain other persons who are killed or die from injuries sustained in the line of duty. Finance

S-2458 FIREARMS SAFETY (Perry & Others) This act would set strict standards for the use of firearms safes and firearms safety devices. Judiciary

S-2464 FINGERPRINTS AND PHYSICAL DESCRIPTIONS (Damiani & Others) This act would change the procedure by which fingerprints and physical descriptions of all persons arrested and all persons wanted for serious crimes are provided to the Bureau of Criminal Identification of the Department of the Attorney General. Judiciary

RETIREMENT

H-7035 MILITARY CREDIT (T. Brien & Others) This act would give credit to reserve members of the Armed Service of the United States, who are participants in the State of Rhode Island Retirement System, for time served during an involuntary call-up to active duty for longer than 30 days. Finance

H-7066 REEMPLOYMENT OF RETIRED MEMBERS (Winfield & Hogan) This act would raise the days that municipal employees may reenter service from 75 to not more than 150 days. Corporations

S-2347 TEACHERS' RETIREMENT (Coderre & Others) This act would alter member contributions to the State Retirement System. Finance

S-2370 TEACHERS' RETIREMENT (Felag & Others) This act would change the contributions made by cities, towns, and state to the teachers' retirement system. Finance

TOWN AND CITY CLERKS

H-7121 HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION (Hogan & Others) This act would clarify the requirement for obtaining a homestead exemption on real estate. Judiciary

S-2255 FORMER PROBATE JUDGES (Cote & Others – By Request) This act would add language in order to include former probate judges among those empowered to join persons in marriage. Judiciary

S-2369 NOTICE OF DEVISE OR BEQUEST (Paiva-Weed & Others) This act would amend certain notice requirements relative to probate practice, and who are required to be notified in the event of a devise to a corporation or voluntary association. Judiciary

S-2398 MARRIAGE LICENSES (Blais) This act would amend the provisions of the General Laws regarding the attainment and return of a marriage license. This act would also delete certain provisions pertaining to physical examinations and blood tests. H.E.W.

MISCELLANEOUS

H-7048 INSPECTION OF PERSONNEL FILES (S. Anderson & Lanzi) This act would require that an employee be provided a copy of his/her personnel record, without cost, within 5 business days of a written request to his/her employer for the record. Labor

H-7058 HISTORIC DISTRICTS (Gorham) This act would prohibit any motor vehicle weighing more than 10,000 pounds from traveling in any historic district. Corporations

S-2313 CONTRACTORS' BONDS (McCaffrey & Others) This act would hold liable any state, city or town agency which fails to require contractors to file labor and materials bonds. Labor

S-2395 SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES (Alves & DaPonte) This act would provide that any smoking prohibitions or regulations be enacted by the General Assembly, provided that the General Assembly may delegate such legislative authority to the cities and towns. H.E.W.

S-2436 PARKING CASH-OUT PROGRAMS (Tassoni & Others) This act would allow employers to provide parking cash-out programs to employees. Corporations

S-2437 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT SAFETY (Tassoni & Others) This act would provide that cities and towns are hereby authorized to provide, by ordinance for regulations controlling the use of personal watercraft within their jurisdictions. Corporations

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